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REPORT FOR 1937,

By GEORGE PHILLIPS DRIVER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	125,994
Population (Registrar General's estimate mid-1937) ...	3813
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Book	1048
Rateable Value	£25,608
Sum represented by a penny rate	£114 12 0

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—The District is an agricultural one and is scattered over a wide area, some parts of which are very wild and sparsely populated. Sheep-farming is the chief occupation. There are five villages in the area :—Llangammarch Wells, Garth, Beulah, Oaklands, Erwood and Llanwrthwl.

Vital Statistics for 1937.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate ...	55	32	23
	Illegitimate ...	5	5	Nil

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 15·73

		Total	M.	F.
Still Births—	Legitimate ...	4	4	Nil
	Illegitimate ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

Rate per 1,000 TOTAL (Live and Still) Births ... 62·50

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	51	30	21

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13·36

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total Births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes ...	Nil	Nil
Total Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	83·33
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births ...	90·90
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :—

(1) George P. Driver, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Health.

(2) John Evans (Certified Sanitary Officer under the Royal Sanitary Institute), Sanitary Officer.

The M.O.H. is part time only.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bio-chemical and Pathological work is carried out by the Clinical Research Association Ltd., London, when required.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

It is pleasing to report that during the end of 1934 an Ambulance Service was inaugurated at Builth Wells. This Ambulance is of very great assistance to the Rural Area.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Nursing is carried out by the Nursing Association of Builth Wells, Llanwrtyd Wells, Beulah, Erwood and Newbridge-on-Wye. Each maintains a Certified Midwife who acts as a General Nurse and who visits in the district.

There is no provision for nursing cases of Infectious disease.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic at Builth Wells is available for residents in the district. Such is also the case as regards the Orthopaedic Clinic in connection with the Schools.

Dr. N. T. K. Jordan, of the Welsh National Memorial Association, visits Builth Wells twice monthly and residents of the district can attend at his Tuberculosis Dispensary.

HOSPITALS : PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

There is no Public Hospital, nor is there a Public Assistance Institution actually in the area.

There is no Voluntary Hospital in the area, but the Builth Wells Cottage Hospital is available for residents in the area. This is a well-equipped Hospital of 25 Beds provided with an efficient X-ray apparatus and operating theatre. The building of a further wing to this Hospital was completed in 1936.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER—

The water supply to the villages of Gwenddwr and Erwood are now completed. That of Garth is still in progress.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No sewage works have been carried out, and no alteration of closet accommodation has been made. No fresh arrangements have been made with regard to scavenging.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been necessary to check the pollution of rivers or streams in the area.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following inspections have been made :—

Nuisances	...	...	60
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	76
Bake-houses	...	...	Nil
Houses Disinfected	...	...	2
Slaughter Houses	...	...	57

NOTICES ISSUED :—

Informal	...	...	1
Statutory	...	...	13
Notices complied with	...	...	11

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS which can be controlled by Bye-Laws :—

Slaughter Houses	...	...	4
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	30
Bake-houses	..	...	Nil

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action was necessary.

SCHOOLS.

The Water Supply and Sanitary Conditions of Garth School is still most unsatisfactory, but it is hoped with the provision of Water Supplies these will be remedied.

The Schools in the area were closed during 1937 on account of Infectious Disease, i.e., Glandulas due to Influenza and Garth due to Mumps.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

All work places are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned Swimming Baths or Pools in the area.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

No action has been taken.

Housing.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES during the year.

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	63
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	85
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	63
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	85
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR, WITHOUT SERVICE OR FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	1

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Section 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Section 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil

Inspection of dwelling-houses under 1935 Act completed.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—Samples were taken, in some cases most unsatisfactory, in which cases samples were repeated and improvements noted.

(b) SLAUGHTER HOUSES were inspected on 57 occasions. No carcases were destroyed due to disease.

(c) ADULTERATION.—No samples of food have been examined.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—No examination has been carried out.

(e) NUTRITION.—There is no scheme for education on this matter.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

The provision of an Isolation Hospital for several neighbouring Local Authorities (to be built at Brecon) has been passed by the respective Local Authorities, but the building has not yet been commenced.

As stated above the provision of an Isolation Hospital for the area is under review.

No cases of Small-pox occurred. The Medical Officer of Health was not called upon to perform vaccinations in consequence of Small-pox contacts.

Facilities for the disinfection of verminous persons are not available.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) During the Year 1937.

Disease.	AGE PERIODS. Under 1 year	1—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	to 65 & over	Total cases
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2

Disease.		Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small pox	...	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	...	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever	...	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	...	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	...	Nil	Nil

(a) CANCER.—No observation to be made.

(b) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No cause for action was necessary.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.—No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

New Cases of Tuberculosis and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory Male.	New Cases. Respiratory Female.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory Male.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory Female.	Deaths. Respiratory. Male.	Deaths. Respiratory. Female.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. Male.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. Female.
0—			—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 -	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
35—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	1	1	1	1	Nil	1	1

There were 3 deaths due to Tuberculosis during 1937—one case had not been notified.

The notification of Tuberculosis is usually satisfactory.

GEORGE P. DRIVER.

September 20th, 1938.